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PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Report from Manila—Condition of plague.

MANILA, P. I., September 5, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report that plague showed a decrease during the week ended August 31, 1901, there being reported in Manila during that period 5 cases and 4 deaths—Chinese, 3, and Filipinos, 2. The total number of deaths during that week was 167.

Respectfully,

J. C. PERRY,

*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.,
Chief Quarantine Officer for the Philippine Islands.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

TURKEY.

Report from Constantinople—Plague in that city.

[Report No. 264.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, TURKEY, September 22, 1901.

SIR: Since last April the capital of the Ottoman Empire has entertained that frightful disease known as bubonic plague. That does not prevent many people from disbelieving in its presence. Is it since last April that bubonic plague has made its appearance here? I think that before that date more than one patient presenting fever more or less high and enlargement of the ganglia were attended by physicians of our town who could not make a diagnosis of said cases. Were they bubonic plague cases? I do not want to state it, but I must remember that on August 20, 1900, at the arrival of the steamship *Niger*, of the Messageries Maritimes, 1 bubonic plague case was ascertained (2 Rep., No. 252, August 24, 1900). That death in the harbor of Trieste occurred November 4, 1899, on board the Ottoman liner *Polis Mitilini* is already known by my report sub. No. 233 of November 16, 1899. It does not seem to be very astonishing if, after such facts, bubonic plague makes its appearance in Constantinople, where, as anywhere else, people not undergoing regular quarantine can come freely without giving any suspicion of contamination. I must state, though, that the local authorities, following the example of the sovereign, have shown much willingness in taking the necessary steps in order to prevent the appearance of the disease here. Unhappily, said steps have proved unsuccessful. I will say later on the reason of this failure.

I will explain first of all the outbreak of plague in Constantinople, giving a very short description of the 20 plague cases occurred, and, secondly, I will speak about the sanitary or police steps taken in order to check, and if possible to stifle, the disease before it becomes epidemic.

Outbreak of plague.

It was April 27 last, that a man, aged 36, employee in a macaroni factory in which he used to live, fell ill. Said factory is situated in the quarter of Galata, not far from the harbor. The disease was of a very mild character. In the beginning of the illness the temperature of the patient rose to 40° C., after having had light chills, but on the following days the fever did not exceed 37.5° C. In the first day the number of the heart beats was 135, on the following days it was not more than 106. There was no nausea, the tongue furred, no lesion whatever in the skin,

which was very sensitive. He presented two buboes, one of which was in the right triangle of scarpa, and the second under the left arm. Within ten days the buboes suppurated and the fever disappeared altogether, the temperature being 36.5°C . On May 18 he was all right, but he was left isolated up to May 30, when he was left free to resume his occupations. No antipest injection was given to him, being a case of very mild character. The nurse, on the contrary, who attended the patient, received an injection of 20 c.c. of antipest serum. I must not omit to report that the microscopic examination showed a great number of characteristic bacilli pestis.

June 22, a second plague case was registered. It was a young man, aged 18, serving in a grocery not far from the macaroni factory where the first case occurred. This young man had no communication whatever with the first case. The symptoms were a bubo in left triangle of scarpa, with fever of 40°C ., tongue furred, and two days later he complained of headache. The bacilli pestis were found with the microscope.

June 30, a woman, whose parents live at Galata, near the macaroni factory where the first bubonic-plague case occurred, fell ill. She called on her parents, when she felt uneasy and went directly back home to Cassim Pasha, suburb on the Golden Horn. She is aged 24. The symptoms were fever, the eyes injected, looking fatigued, the skin dry and hot, the temperature in the armpit 40°C . She was rather weak. Two buboes, one of which in the left triangle of scarpa of the size of a pigeon egg, the second in the right triangle of scarpa, not larger than a chestnut. Her spleen was enlarged. The microscope showed many bacilli pestis.

At the same date, June 30, a fourth case was registered. It was in a man aged 46, a carpenter who fell ill June 27. He had high fever, delirium, difficulty of respiration, which was noisy; he was very thirsty and his general condition was very grave. In the triangle of scarpa, right side, he presented 1 bubo, which was very hard and painful. He received 2 injections of antipest serum of 20 c. c. each, and the bubo suppurated.

The fifth case occurred July 2 with a fever of 39°C ., two buboes, the pulp of which examined gave great numbers of bacilli pestis. He got all right after an injection of serum.

July 22, 2 girls fell ill, presenting all the symptoms of plague—fever, buboes, bacilli pestis—and one of them had, besides said symptoms, a bronchitis. Both of them received 3 injections of antipest serum. These 2 girls fell ill at Haidar Pasha, a suburb on the Asiatic coast of the Marmora Sea.

At Kalamish, a village situated on the same coast of the Marmora, a gardner fell ill on July 14, presenting the symptoms of bubonic plague, as well as the bacilli pestis. This eighth case was rather light.

At Stambul 2 plague cases were registered. Both patients were living in the same room. They presented all the symptoms of bubonic plague as well as the bacilli pestis.

The thirteenth case was that of a young Persian, aged 18, who used to amuse himself by killing rats. It seems that the latter, being ill, could not escape. He lived at Galata, not far from the spot where the first bubonic plague cases occurred. All the bubonic plague symptoms were present, as well as the bacilli pestis.

Two bubonic plague cases occurred at Balata, a suburb situated also in the Golden Horn, opposite that of Cassim Pasha; both in porters serving in a shop at Stambul.

The sixteenth case occurred at Baluk Bazar, in Stambul, in a man aged 50. He had strong chill, headache, frenzy, and a bubo in the right triangle of scarpa. He fell ill while calling on a friend at Kalamish (eighth case).

The seventeenth case occurred on board a Turkish steamship. It was the fireman of the liner *Berigazy*, who had 2 characteristic buboes in the 2 armpits, with fever and all the other symptoms of plague, not excepting the specific bacilli.

The eighteenth case occurred also at Baluk Bazar, in Stambul. It was August 20 that said man fell ill. He was isolated with 16 other persons who had been in contact with a previous plague case. These 17 persons were condemned to be segregated in that little shop, which hardly could shelter 1 or 2 persons. They were condemned to live in the filthiness without air, and water enough to drink only. There was not a water-closet. However, one among them fell ill, presenting all the symptoms of plague.

The nineteenth case was that of a man who frequented a coffee shop at Galata, near the place where the first plague cases were registered. As soon as he fell ill he went to the Greek hospital which is situated outside of the walls of Constantinople, at Balukly. While lying up he escaped from the hospital and took refuge in a coffee shop at Psaluk Bozur. He was arrested by the police and replaced in the hospital, where, several days afterwards, feeling all right, he got out free. Said man fell ill August 20.

The 12th instant another plague case occurred—it was the twentieth. This latter case was in a servant of the coffee shop where the man reported, being the nineteenth case, took refuge. On said date he began to feel uneasy; next day he felt a pain in the groin. The physicians who first attended him found a temperature of 39.5° C., pulse, 96, headache, and a bubo, in the pulp of which they found a great number of bacilli pestis. Within three days this man died. This fatal case is the last plague case registered up to the present time. There were in all 20 bubonic plague cases, of which 5 proved fatal.

As it can be seen, the disease in Constantinople has been of a mild character—especially comparing the fatalities with those occurring in China and India, where the death rate from plague reaches 80 per cent and more. It is on account of this mildness that many people will not believe in its presence. Said mildness in the character of bubonic plague must not be attributed to the sanitary steps taken by the authorities. I must state that as soon as the first plague case occurred his majesty the Sultan issued an irade, by which he ordered that all the necessary steps should be taken for the object of stifling at once the disease in its outbreak. His majesty has ordered that all that unnecessary bureaucratic correspondence, which is so prejudicial to the speed of affairs, should be avoided, and that such regulations should be set, and the officials should be directed how to behave in case the disease should break out; that at once all the necessary steps should be put into execution and stifle the disease.

As a consequence of said irade, a commission composed of the vice-president of the superior sanitary council, the inspector-general of the sanitary service, Dr. Cozzoni, effendi, Dr. Zitterer, the inspector adjunct of said service, and by the sanitary representatives of Austria, Italy, Germany, and France, met and decided that 8 persons, of whom 4 should be appointed by his majesty the Sultan and 4 should be appointed by the superior sanitary council; that these 8 persons should compose a commission sitting at the buildings of the sanitary board.

The duty incumbent on said commission is to take immediately, as soon as there will be a manifestation of bubonic plague, all the necessary steps to put them into execution without being obliged to report to any official authority whatever.

The bacteriological institute, as well as the disinfecting service, would be at the disposal of said commission; that the prefecture de la ville or the provincial authority of Constantinople will establish 5 hospitals for the exclusive service of the plague patients, who will not be charged for the medical attendance they will receive. The hospitals belonging to foreign communities or governments will be authorized to have special pavilions in which they could shelter plague patients of their own community or nationality. Stretchers, boats, and carriages will be put at the disposal of said commission for the transport of the plague patients, as well as of their wearing apparel, to the above-mentioned special hospitals.

Steamboats will be ready at any time to tow said boats. All the physicians will be compelled to announce at once the plague cases they observe. The first thing to be done in presence of a plague case will be the isolation of the dwelling, as well as the isolation of the patient in his room until he is transported to the hospital. The physicians, as well as the officials who will have contact with the plague patients, will wear a special dress which immediately after will be disinfected. The officials and servants who have carried the plague patients will receive an injection of antipest serum. The contacts also will be isolated and transported to an isolated place where they will be under medical observation. They will undergo disinfection and if necessary they will receive antipest injections.

In spite of said regulations, it has been stated that the prefecture de la ville has not done what it ought to do; therefore, at the sitting of the superior sanitary council of May 2, last, the Prussian sanitary representative supported by other members (his colleagues), protested against the lamentable carelessness of said prefecture de la ville, who not only has not followed the order given by His Majesty the Sultan, but has shown to be far from the height it ought to be. Besides the carelessness in establishing the hospitals and taking so many other steps, is it not astounding to see that 17 persons have been segregated in a little shop without air, light, water, and space enough, in order to prevent the spread of the disease? It is not easy to qualify this way of acting.

It is said that the disinfection of the houses and dwellings in which plague cases have occurred is performed in the best way, but we see that in spite of said thorough disinfection, fresh plague cases do occur in the same houses and dwellings. That means that said disinfection is not enough. How could it be successful when said dwellings are badly built in excessively narrow streets where air does not circulate, there is no light, and the sewers, if there are any, are very defective? Several months ago I proposed to apply that system of betterment and hygiene which consists in the opening of large streets abutting the back to back houses and improving the system of sewers. My proposal has not been accepted because the result could not be obtained within ten years. Well, they apply the present system of hygiene, the result of which is not seen work, as it will not be seen in ten years. The best way of getting rid of plague, as it has been seen in the different epidemics, is to incinerate the wearing apparel of the patients and burn the dwelling.

This means of getting rid of the epidemic was put into execution by the British Government in Corfu in 1816 and we did it in the plague epidemic in Mesopotamia in 1875.

Respectfully,

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,
United States Sanitary Commissioner.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Foreign and insular statistical reports of countries and cities—Yearly and monthly.

ARGENTINA—*Buenos Ayres*.—Month of July, 1901. Estimated population, 800,000. Total number of deaths, 1,449, including diphtheria, 18; enteric fever, 5; measles, 5; scarlet fever, 22; whooping cough, 1; smallpox, 125, and 185 from tuberculosis.

BAHAMAS—*Dunmore Town*.—Two weeks ended September 27, 1901. Estimated population, 1,232. No deaths and no contagious diseases.

Governors Harbor.—Two weeks ended September 27, 1901. Estimated population, 1,375. No deaths and no contagious diseases.

Green Turtle Cay—Abaco.—Two weeks ended September 25, 1901. Estimated population, 3,314. No deaths and no contagious diseases reported.

Nassau.—Two weeks ended September 30, 1901. Estimated population, 12,235. No deaths and no contagious diseases reported.

BRAZIL—*Pernambuco*.—Two weeks ended August 31, 1901. Estimated population, 200,000. Total number of deaths not reported. Three deaths from whooping cough, 73 from smallpox, and 51 from phthisis pulmonalis reported.

BRITISH GUINA—*Demerara—Georgetown*.—Month of August, 1901. Estimated population, 36,567. Total number of deaths, 151, including diphtheria, 2, and 1 from tuberculosis.

CANADA—*Quebec—Sherbrooke*.—Month of September, 1901. Estimated population, 11,765. Total number of deaths, 16, including 1 from enteric fever.

CUBA—*Santiago*.—Month of August, 1901. Estimated population, 45,000. Total number of deaths, 100, including diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 4, and 21 from tuberculosis.

FRANCE—*Nantes*.—Month of August, 1901. Estimated population 130,000. Total number of deaths, 214, including enteric fever, 2, and 2 from measles.

St. Etienne.—Two weeks ended September 15, 1901. Estimated population, 146,671. Total number of deaths, 97, including diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 1; measles, 1, and 11 from tuberculosis.

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales*.—The deaths registered in 33 great towns in England and Wales during the week ended September 21, 1901, correspond to an annual rate of 16.8 per 1,000 of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 11,463,026. The highest rate was recorded in Sunderland, viz, 25.6, and the lowest in Bristol, viz, 11.2.